

COUPLE REALIZES DREAM THROUGH WIFE'S EFFORT

By DURFEE PARKINS

It all started in June 1945. She was a child bride of 15 and he was 22. After 11 years of marriage Mr. and Mrs. James A. Wadkins, 189404 Ermanita, have accomplished something together which should be an encouragement and inspiration to all the young couples who have high hopes for the future.

Significant Coincidence

December 3, 1956, will always be a memorable day in their lives. Not only was it the day James was notified that he had passed the California State Bar examination but his wife, Elsie, received her five year pin at Douglas aircraft. This is significant because had it not been for Elsie's encouragement and

insistence on working while her husband attended law school, this success story would have remained a dream unfulfilled.

Five years ago when Wadkins was in his last year of undergraduate study at Pepperdine college, Elsie started to work in the Outside Manufacturing department at Douglas in order to supplement his GI bill and, literally, put her husband through college. She now holds the position of lead woman in the Planning department which is usually accomplished only after eight or ten years with the company.

Devoted wife and mother of two lovely children, Elsie Marie, 10, and Andy, 7, Mrs. Wadkins is the oldest of seven children. She met her husband in Texas while he was a gunnery instructor in the Air Force and 10 days later they were married. After his discharge shortly thereafter, they came to California.

Early Childhood

During the first few years of marriage James worked and saved for his college education while his wife remained at home with the children. James' desire to become a lawyer stemmed from his childhood days in Kentucky where he would visit court sessions whenever possible. However, desire does not always indicate ability. So he took the vocational test at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

"That \$5 investment was worth \$5,000 worth of opinion," he said. The outcome definitely showed an aptitude for law. He chose Pepperdine college for his undergraduate studies where he majored in social science and minored in business—a course of study which he felt would give him the necessary background for the study of law.

In June, 1956, he received his law degree from the University of Southern California



Finally Made It!

James Wadkins, Torrance, proudly shows the printed proof of passing the California State Bar examination to his wife, Elsie, and two children, (l-r) Andy and Elsie Marie.

and spent the summer months studying and preparing for the bar exam in the fall.

An interesting sidelight was the way in which he studied for the exam. One month prior to the test, he moved into a hotel where he did nothing but study, sleep and eat one meal a day in a room the size of a large closet. When he finally "emerged" and entered the spacious examination room, the

psychological effect was overwhelming. In fact, he said that he had never been more fully prepared for anything in his life.

The only real hardship occurred during his freshman year at Pepperdine. Andy was stricken with polio. This could very well have put a stop to any visions James might have had of becoming a lawyer. Fortunately, Andy's case was

a mild one and today he is fully recovered. Also in their favor, in James' words, was the "wonderful help given us by the March of Dimes. They paid for everything. Their help when we needed it most was something my wife and I will never forget."

This is more than a success story. It is a story of love, encouragement and sacrifice, which has not ended, but just begun, for a determined and ambitious couple.

PHT Degree

At the time Wadkins received his LLD degree from USC, Elsie was also presented with a degree which gives meaning and proof of the role she played in making his success, thus far, possible. The inscription on her PHT degree (Putting Hobby Through) reads, "For faithful service above and beyond the requirements of the marriage contract."

James' appreciation for everything his wife has done is also shown by his request that the article be a complete surprise. He purposely arranged the interview in her absence and modestly insisted that she be given all the credit.

SEPULVEDA, ARLINGTON JOIN PTA COUNCIL HERE

Torrance Council of Parent-Teacher Associations was increased from 18 units to 20 last month as 33rd district representatives, council officers, principals and parents from the Sepulveda and Arlington elementary schools collaborated to organize Parent-Teacher Associations for their schools.

Sepulveda School organized on November 15 with a charter membership of 197. The meeting was called to order by temporary chairman Mrs. James Craig. Mrs. A. Raines served as secretary. Assisting in the formation of the new association were Mrs. Albin Larson, extension chairman, southern section; of the 33rd district PTA and Mrs. Evar Jansson, Torrance council PTA extension chairman.

Principal Robert Dexter greeted the group and Torrance council president Mrs. Francis Stockle introduced the council officers present. Temporary committee chairmen were introduced and the by-laws were read and accepted.

Officers elected for the year were: Mrs. Albert Yackie, president; Mrs. Paul Halbach, first vice-president; Robert Dexter, second vice-president; Mrs. John Yanta, third vice-president; Mrs. Allen Hossman, recording secretary; Mrs. Albert Craig, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Lee Speaks, treasurer; Wilbur Hawkins, auditor; and John Yanta, historian.

Arlington school auditorium buzzed with activity as parents

in the area gathered November 28 for an organizational PTA meeting. The charter closed with 170 members but membership, however, is still open. The by-laws were read by Mrs. Lloyd Van DeVort and adopted.

Chairman Mrs. Hervey Blue opened the meeting by introducing Mrs. Larson who assisted with the election of officers. Mrs. Ralph Eyestone was acting secretary.

Mrs. Jerry Leonard, chairman of the nominating committee read the slate of nominees and the following officers were elected: Mrs. Blue, president; Mrs. Myron Spaulding, first vice-president; Malcolm Richard, second vice-president; and Mmes. Leon Brille, third vice-president; John Gomez, recording secretary; Robert Roy Cyr, corresponding secretary; Robert Webster, treasurer; Lloyd Van DeVort, auditor; and Howard Fisk, historian.

Hospitality chairman Mrs. Dane Walker presented each with a corsage and the officers were installed in a rainbow ceremony by council president Mrs. Francis Stockle. Arlington principal Richard greeted the audience and introduced his staff of teachers.

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